

# LETTER.

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*To his Excellency the Governor, and the  
Honorable the Executive Council of Maryland,*

GENTLEMEN:

In accordance with previous usage, the President and Directors of the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road Company, present to the Governor and Council a statement of the operations of this work for the past year, its present condition and its future prospects.

Since the last annual statement, nothing has been done in the further extension of the road westward, but in order that the company might be prepared to re-commence and vigorously prosecute its construction, as early as circumstances would possibly admit, four parties of Engineers had been diligently engaged in effecting the necessary surveys between Harper's Ferry and Wheeling, several continuous lines have been traced as far westward as the summit of the Allegany at the dividing ridge between the Eastern and Western Waters, and for some miles beyond it; surveys were also simultaneously commenced at Wheeling, and have been prosecuted eastward through Virginia, and for some distance into Pennsylvania. In so wide a region of country as that which will be embraced by the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road, it will readily be understood, that the routes to be examined must be numerous, and that to secure the selection of the best, the most accurate surveys and careful comparisons must be made.

This is necessary not only with a view to the most advantageous location, but also to satisfy the different districts offering a choice of routes, all of which are desirable to be, as immediately as practicable participants of the benefits dispensed by the construction of the road.— It is not in the power of the President and Directors to indicate the route that should be adopted over the region